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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

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O R 041205Z DEC 74 ZFF-4
FM USMISSION NATO
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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO ALLNATOCAPITALS 4794
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
USDOCOSOUTH
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSNANVEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 6745

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK
SUBJ: DPC MEETING DECEMBER 3: UK DEFENSE REVIEW

REF: STATE 263795 NOTAL

SUMMARY. ON DECEMBER 2, DPC RECEIVED BRIEFING ON UK DEFENSE REVIEW PRESENTEDBY CHIEF OF DEFENSESTAFF FIELDMARSHAL SIR MACHAEL CARVER. IN INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, PECK (UK) STRESSED PROVISIONAL ASPECT OF UK PLANS. HE TOLD DPC HE WOULD SHORTLY CIRCULATE MOD MASON'S STATEMENT (BEING GIVEN TO PARLIAMENT ALMOST SIMULTANEOULSY WITH PRESENTATION TO DPC) AND NOTED STATEMENT WILL SAY CONSULTATIONS WITH NATO WILL BE THOROUGH
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AND REAL. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HIS PRESENTATION AND THAT OF FIELD MARSHAL MICHAEL CARVER WOULD BE FAR MORE DETAILED THAN MASON'S PROPOSAL TO HOUSE OF CMMONS; AND HE REQUESTED THAT ALLIES PROTECT THIS SENSITIVE INFORMATION. HE ASKED FOR NATO'S FINAL COMMENTS

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BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1975. UK CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF, FIELD MASHAL SIR MICHEAL CARVER, STATED HE HAD ALREADY BRIEFED MILITARY COMMITTEE MORNING OF DECEMBER 2, WOULD BREIF SACEUR DECEMBER 3 AND WOULD BRIEF SACLANT IN LONDON ON DECEMBER 4. HE WOULD PRESENT BRIEFING TO SACLANT AND CINCHAN JOINTLY IN NORFOLK DECEMBER 17. IN DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING PRESENTATION, CHAIRMAN, MC, AND SYG LUNS EXPRESSEC CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF REDUCTIONS FOR FLANKS, PARTICULARLY SOUTHERN FLANK, AND DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) LAMENTED CONTINUING DECLINE IN EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION TO ALLIANCE DEFENSE. MOST SPEAKERS EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDINGFOR UK'S ECONOMIC PLIGHT, AND, EVEN IN EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER REDUCTIONS, IMPLIED LITTLE CRITICISM. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING OPENING STATEMENT BY SIR EDWARD PECK AND PRESENTATION BY FIELD MARSHAL SIR MICHEAEL CARVER, SYG LUNS TURNED TO CHAIRMAN, MC FOR INITIAL COMMENTS. SIR PETER HILL-NORTON INFORMED DPC THAT MC HAD ALREADY REMITTED SUBJECT TO ALLTHREE MNCS FOR THEIR URGENT MILITARY ASSESSMENT. MC HAE ASKEDFORTNC'SVIWEE JANUARY 15 AND INTENDS TO FORWARD THESE VIEWS, TOGETHER WITH MC VIEWS, TO DPC BY FEBRUARY 1. SIR PETER SAID THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO EXPRESS FIRM VIEWS ON POSSIBLE OUTEOME OF THIS ASSESSMENT. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT UK HAD TRIED TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON NATO AT EXPENSE OF AREAS OUTSIDE NATO. MOST SERIOUS ADVERSE EFFECT FOR NATO APPEARED TO BE ON SOUTHERN FLANK, AN AREA WHERE OTHER STRESSES ARE ALREADY FELT. CMC ALSO MENTIONED REDUCTIONS IN AIRLIFT AND AMPHIBIOUS SHIPPING AS ADVERSELY AFFECTING REINFORCEMENT PLANS, PARTICULARLY FOR FLANKS. HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THERE WERE NO PROPOSALS FOR QUANTITATIVE OR QUALITATIVE REDUCTIONS IN CENTER REGION. REDUCTIONS IN ACLANT AND ACCHAN, WHILE UNWELCOME, AT FIRST SIGHT DID NOT APPEAR TO GRAVE.

2. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) STRESSED THAT THERE WAS A GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE UK AND THE SMALLER COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE. HE SAID SOME COUNTRIES HAVE GREATER HISTORIC PROJECTION THAN OTHERS, AND THAT, FURTHERMORE, THE UK'S

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POSSESSION OF AN INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR CAPABILITY SET IT APART FROM OTHERS. HE THEN PICKED UP THE SAME CRI DE COEUR ON MYTH OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE THAT HE HAD VOICED EARLIER DURING DPC DISCUSSIONS NOV 21 OF REDUCTIONS IN CONSCRIPT SERVICE (AND OTHER REDUCTIONS) IN ITALIAN ARMED FORCES (SEE USNATO 6493). GREAT BRITAIN, WHICH IS MORE THAN THE OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS, IS GOING TO DO LESS, BUT ALL EUROPEAN NATIONS ARE GOING TO DO LESS. HE STATED THE PROBLEM IS MORE THAN ECONOMIC, IT IS POLITICAL. HE ASKED, RHETORICALLY, "WHERE ARE WE GOING?". EUROPEAN DEFENSE IS A DEFENSE WHICH IS DISAPPEARING, HE SAID. EUROPE'S CREDIBILITY WITHIN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IS AT RISK, AND ON THIS SCORE, DE STAERCKE SAID HE IS PESSIMISTIC. HE ASKED ONE PRECISE QUESTION: WOULD THE UK MAINTAIN ITS NUCLEAR EN-

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GAGEMENTS? SIR MICHAEL CARVER NODDED AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE.

3. MENZIES (CANADA) STATED IT WAS ONLY FAIR THAT THE ALLIANCE RECOGNIZE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES THAT BESET UK. HE WAS VERY MUCH RELIEVED AT DEXTERITY WITH WHICH UK PLANNERS HAD ADDRESSED THEMSELVES TO PAINFUL SUBJECT OF REDUCTIONS. UK HAD MANAGED TO LEAVE SO MUCH INTACT, AND HAD PHASED REDUCTIONS OVER 10 YEAR PERIOD. HE ALSO TOOK SATISFACTION THAT UK CONTRIBUTION TO CENTER REGION REMAINED LARGELY UNIMPAIRED FOR PRESENT.

4. BRUCE (US) CONGRATULATED SIR EDWARD PECK AND SIR MICHEAL CARVER ON LUCIDITY AND FRANKNESS OF THEIR PRESENTATIONS. HE STATED US APPRECIATES UK DECISION TO CONSULT WITH NATO ALLIES AND THAT US WOULD JOIN IN CAREFUL STUDY OF PRESENTATION.

5. BOSS (FRG) ALSO THANKED UK FOR COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT AND WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT, AND SAID UK HAD PLACED NEED FOR REDUCTIONS IN WIDER PICTURE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS. HE STATED WELL KNOWN FRG RESERVATIONS ON USE OF "PERCENT OF GNP DEVOTED TO DEFENSE EXPENDITURES" AS INDICATOR OF RELATIVE DEFENSE EFFORTS. BOSS SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL THAT UK HAD SHOHWN SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR FORCES IN POSSIBLE MBFR AREA. HE SHARED DE STAERCKE'S APPREHENSION OVER FUTURE OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE, AND SAID FRG WAS SPECIFICALLY CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT OF UK REDUCTIONS IN DEFENSE OF BALTIC AREA.

6. LUNS STATED HE HAD LISTENED WITH GREAT INTEREST TO WHAT
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DE STAERCKE HAD TO SAY. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF NATO, MEDITERRANEAN IS REGION WHICH WOULD SUFFER MOST FROM POTENTIAL UK REDUCTIONS, YET MEDITERRANEAN WAS REGION MOST FRAUGHT WITH DANGER IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THIS MEANS OTHER NATIONS MUST TAKE UP BURDEN OR NATO'S POSITION IN THAT AREA WILL BE FURTHER WEAKENED. LUNS THEN ASKED IF UK HAD ABANDONED PLANS TO ACQUIRE THREE THROUGH DECK CRUISERS. SIR MICHAEL CARVER REPLIED THAT UK PROGRAM STILL CALLED FOR THREE SHIPS, BUT ONLY ONE WOULD BE IN COMMISSION BY 1980. TO FILL GAP, ROYAL NAVY WOULD USE HMS HERMES AS ASW HELICOPTER CARRIER.

7. SIR EDWARD PECK ASKED THAT ANY NATO PRESS REPORT OF DPC SHOULD STATE IMPLY THAT UK BEGAIN CONSULTATIONS ON ITS DEFENSE REVIEW; AS REGARDS DETAILS, THERE WAS NOTHING TO ADD TO MOD MASON'S STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT.

8. LUNS CONCLUDED DISCUSSION OF THIS AGENDA ITEM BY STATING THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, UK HAS CERTAINLY DONE ALL IT COULD DO SO THAT NATO WOULD SUFFER LEAST. HE FORMALLY REQUESTED MC TO START ASSESSMENT OF UK DEFENSE REVIEW.

9. MISSION IS SENDING TEXTS OF PECK'S OPENING STATEMENT AND

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EHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF PRESENTATION BY SEPTEL, AND WILL POUCH
INFORMATION DATA BOOKLET WHICH UK CIRCULATED WITH PRESENTATION.
WE WILL PROVIDE COPY OF MOD MASON'S STATEMENT WHEN RECEIVED.
BRUCE

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SECDEF INFO ALLNATOCAPITALS
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
USDOCOSOUTH

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MBFR VIENNA
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSNANVEUR
Type: TE
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